

ROUTINE

* C O N F I D E N T I A L *

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6661

INFO RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 3767

RUSBPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR 2898

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 1083

STATE FOR INR

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: MOPS, AF, UR, PIWR

SUBJECT: SOVIETS EMPLOY KAZAKHS ALONG NORTHERN AFGHAN BORDER

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED by

DATE 4/28/89

() RELEASE

() DECLASSIFY

() EXCISE

() DECLASSIFY in PART

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() Non-responsive info.

FOI, EO or PA exemptions

TS authority to:

() CLASSIFY as

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() DOWNGRADE TS to () B or () C, OADR

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: FBIS'S DAILY REPORT FOR THE SOVIET UNION, JUNE 11 CARRIES A CURIOUS ITEM WHICH IMPLIES POSSIBLE SOVIET ETHNIC CONSIDERATIONS IN DEALING WITH MUJAHIDIN RAIDERS INTO SOVIET TERRITORY. END SUMMARY.

3. A REPORT SOURCED TO MOSCOW TELEVISION SERVICE, 1415 JUNE 13, CARRIED IN THE COURSE OF A PROGRAM ENTITLED "QUESTIONS OF THEORY" QUOTES A PROFESSOR EDUARD ALEXANDROVICH BAGRAMOV AS STATING THAT DURING THE RIOTS IN ALMA ATA "...AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME TIME THERE WAS A VERY SERIOUS COMBAT OPERATION ALONG THE AFGHAN BORDER. DURING THIS OPERATION A GREAT AND DECISIVE ROLE WAS PLAYED BY THE PERSONAL VALOR AND RESOURCEFULNESS OF YOUNG KAZAKH MEN."

4. THE "OPERATION" PRESUMABLY REFERS TO THE REPRISAL RAIDERS

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TARGETTED AGAINST MUJAHIDIN (AND SYMPATHETIC AFGHANS) IN NORTHERN TAKHAR AND KUNDUZ PROVINCE FOLLOWING MUJAHIDIN MARCH AND APRIL RAIDS INTO TADZHIKISTAN. WE ARE SOMEWHAT SURPRISED AT THE DEPLOYMENT OF KAZAKHS INTO AFGHAN TERRITORY BORDERING TADZHIKISTAN. (WE HAVE HEARD THAT SEVERAL THOUSAND SOVIET TROOPS WERE DEPLOYED ACROSS THE BORDER TO CONDUCT CLEARING OPERATIONS AND REPRISALS IN NORTHERN KUNDUZ AND TAKHAR - KABUL 0722 AND PREVIOUS).

5. WE SPECULATE THAT THE SOVIETS MAY HAVE CALCULATED THAT BECAUSE OF THE LARGELY UZBEK POPULATION OF THE REGION AND THE TADZHIK ETHNIC BACKGROUND OF MASOUD AND MANY OF THE MUJAHIDIN IN THE AREA, NEITHER UZBEKS NOR TADZHIKS SHOULD BE USED IN THE OPERATIONS LEST THEY FIND SYMPATHY WITH THEIR OPPONENTS. HENCE THE USE OF KAZAKHS WHO BECAUSE OF TRADITIONAL RIVALRY WITH BOTH TADZHIKS AND UZBEKS, COULD BE COUNTED ON TO FIGHT WITH MORE ENTHUSIASM.

6. WE MAY BE READING FAR TOO MUCH INTO THIS ONE ITEM BUT WOULD APPRECIATE INR'S VIEWS. MCWILLIAMS

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